

ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

February 4, 2004

TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

PLANNING FOR SPRING 2004 TSP MEETING

SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATES

- *EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire*
 - *Issue Papers (Energy Savings Paper, Screening Data Collection Paper, O&M SOPs)*
 - *Co-Chair Election*
 - *Survey of Technologies for Monitoring Containment Liners and Covers Report*
 - *BiQuat Resin Technology Review—Aberdeen Proving Grounds*
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Planning for the Spring 2004 TSP/NARPM Meeting

The spring TSP meeting will be held in conjunction with NARPM's annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, the week of May 24-28. The draft final agenda that was e-mailed to EF members prior to the call shows training and panel sessions on Monday afternoon through Thursday morning, a closing plenary session on Thursday afternoon, and a field trip on Friday. Julie Santiago-Ocasio (Region 4) said a more detailed agenda should be available by mid-March, and a web site for registration shortly thereafter. When the web site goes on line, meeting planners intend to release a large meeting brochure that will contain all of the abstracts and speaker and trainer information. She will ask Stacey Bennett (Region 6) and Mary Cooke (Region 3) to release information on the papers and panel sessions to the EF co-chairs as soon as possible.

When the more detailed agenda becomes available, the EF will schedule the business session, which Sharon Hayes (Region 1) said may have to be divided into two 3-hour sessions, possibly on Monday and Thursday afternoons. More time would be desirable but will be difficult to obtain given the full agenda. By then, Rich Steimle (OSRTI) should know whether he can fund an additional night's stay for TSP members. Julie advised the EF co-chairs to contact Rich soon after scheduling the business session to reserve space at the hotel. Mark Granger (Region 2) volunteered to draft the business session agenda and send it to the co-chairs for review. Sharon asked Mark to include the Remedial Design/Remedial Action Handbook on that agenda.

EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire

Sharon announced that on January 29, the co-chairs sent the EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire to EF representatives for distribution to RPMs in their respective Regions. She urged rapid distribution of the surveys to meet the March 1 response date. Gene Keepper (Region 6) reported no negative feedback so far and no expressions of concern about anonymity. In fact, most respondents have returned questionnaires by e-mail. At the request of several EF members, Gene e-mailed them the language he used to request survey participation in his Region. Sharon said the co-chairs will determine the schedule for compiling and analyzing the survey data. Kelly Madalinski (OSRTI) agreed to contact John Smith (OSRTI) about having a contractor compile the data. Gene recommended that the EF representatives compile the data for their own Regions before sending the data on to Headquarters to ensure the anonymity of the respondents.

Issue Paper Updates

Mike Gill (HSTL-Region 9) said he has incorporated all of the comments on his energy issue paper and is nearly ready to send the final version to Kelly. Ed Mead (USACE) reported progress working with ASTM on the screening data collection guide, which is currently in subcommittee. He will send examples of USACE's O&M SOP manuals to the EF co-chairs for distribution.

Co-Chair Election

Nominations for Bill Rothenmeyer's successor as co-chair should be sent to EMS with a copy to the co-chairs, who will distribute the names of the nominees one month before the annual meeting. Only two votes are allowed per region. Co-chairs serve for two years and may be reelected for additional terms.

Survey of Technologies for Monitoring Containment Liners and Covers Report

Kelly requested comments on the 37-page, draft report *Survey of Technologies for Monitoring Containment Liners and Covers* (December 12, 2003), which will be distributed to EF members two days after the call. Much of the document relates to long-term monitoring in the vadose zone. The report is considered an interim step in identifying technologies that would benefit from further demonstration and will fit into ongoing projects, such as Monitoring and Measuring for the 21st Century. Send Kelly comments in any format, preferably by February 13.

BiQuat Resin Technology Review—Aberdeen Proving Grounds

Frank Vavra (Region 3) summarized the 11-page report on *BiQuat Resin Treatment and Other Treatment Alternatives for Perchlorate-Contaminated Ground Water* (January 27, 2004) that was distributed to EF members before the call. As project manager for Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Frank is interested in the practicality of treating Aberdeen's perchlorate-contaminated groundwater. While the contamination level is below regulatory levels, the public is upset, and if the level in the public drinking water should spike, action may be needed. The ORD contractor that produced the report found that among the ion-exchange methods available, the BiQuat resins, which are highly selective for perchlorate, appear to be well suited for water containing only parts per billion perchlorate concentrations. However, regenerating these resins is not economically feasible at present, and real world use is difficult to evaluate. In the few instances where ion exchange has been applied in the field, it apparently has not worked well, and has had to be replaced with bioremediation. The ion exchange contractors claim successes elsewhere but offer no information due to confidentiality agreements. Frank asked if any EF members have had experience with ion exchange at perchlorate sites. Mike suggested that Frank contact Kevin Mayer (Region 9).

NEXT ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE CALL

The next Engineering Forum teleconference is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2004, from 12:30-2:00 pm EST.

ATTENDEES

Sharon Hayes, Region 1
Mark Granger, Region 2
Hilary Thornton, Region 3
Frank Vavra, Region 3
Andrew Palestini, Region 3
Tara Saunders, Region 3
Jon Bornholm, Region 4
Julie Santiago-Ocasio, Region 4
Karen Mason-Smith, Region 5
Bernie Schorle, Region 5
Gene Keeper, Region 6

Carlos Sanchez, Region 6
Harry Ball, Region 9
Mike Gill, Region 9 HSTL
Kelly Madalinski, OSRTI
Ellen Rubin, OSRTI
Gareth Pearson, NERL-Las Vegas
Marta Richards, NRMRL-Cinc.
Ed Mead, USACE-Omaha
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC
Mary Deardorff, EMS, Inc.